

Step 3: Obtain Treating Physician Referral and Authorization for Patient Visit



“Physician referrals are key to the MNT reimbursement process.”

- Brenda Broussard, MPH, MBA, RD, BC-ADM, CDE
Broussard Consulting
(Not pictured)

To obtain reimbursement for MNT services, a treating physician *must* provide a written referral *before* the RD provides MNT services.

What are the requirements for the treating physician referral?

The treating physician must make a referral for: (1) each episode of care; and (2) additional hours of MNT if the treating physician determines a change in medical condition, diagnosis, or treatment plan that results in a change in the diet plan. The treating physician’s MNT referral must provide the following information:

- Documentation that MNT services are a necessary and appropriate medical service.
- Date of referral.
- Written treating physician order for MNT services.
- Treating physician’s Unique Physician Identification Number (UPIN).
- Treating physician’s signature.

The MNT referral, as well as documentation of the initial and follow-up MNT services that were provided, should be included in the patient’s medical chart. (Please refer to Appendix C for a sample MNT and DSMT referral form.)